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White Mountain National Forest

New Hampshire and Maine



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Timber-Water-Recreation-Wildlife

LYING in central New Hampshire and western Maine, on mountain slopes whose scenic charm is a perennial lure alike to the sophisticated traveler and the work-weary visitor, is the White Mountain National Forest. The area is at the front door of large centers of population and has supplied the Nation since the early seventeenth century with wood, water, wildlife, and opportunities for recreation.

The White Mountain is one of the 161 national forests established and administered by the Federal Government to insure production of timber, protection of watersheds, propagation of wildlife, and opportunities for recreation. It was among the first to be created through purchase. Most of the land in the Western national forests was set aside from the public domain; in the East, where only an inadequate amount of poor land remained in the public domain, areas have been and are being purchased by the Government for national-forest purposes.

The nucleus of the present White Mountain National Forest was approved for purchase June 15, 1912. On January 1, 1941, 663,973 acres in New Hampshire and 45,368 acres in Maine were either owned or under purchase contract. Within the boundaries of the purchase area is a total of 887,377 acres. Not all of this land will be purchased, however, because some of it embraces tillable farm lands and privately owned recreational developments.

Some areas are devoted chiefly to the production and harvesting of timber, although such use does not preclude their use by the recreationist or sportsman. Planting, silvicultural care and improvement, checking disease, selection of mature or decadent timber for harvesting, careful control of watershed cuttings, and the prevention or control of fire on all areas are among the forester's daily problems.

A forest supervisor is charged with the protection and administration of the White Mountain National Forest. Responsibility for matters requiring local supervision is delegated by him to four district rangers.

The Forest Aids in Erosion Control

Timber Products

Behind all the happy outdoor sports opportunities and the rare scenic charm of the lakes and timbered slopes in the White Mountains are important local and regional economic values, for the area within the White Mountain National Forest supports what remains of some of the finest spruce and northern hardwood stands in the East. Timber products are being grown and carefully harvested, and their use results in continued labor opportunities for thousands of local woods and mill workers. They mean the maintenance of industries interwoven with and forming the economic backbone of life in these communities. The regulated use of these products, on a crop basis, is a prime social consideration in the management of this area.

As timber crops become available, they are sold to the highest responsible bidder and logged under supervision which insures economical utilization in the public interest. A great loss of standing timber was caused by the hurricane in September 1938. Prior to this, an annual cut of 30,000,000 board feet was possible on the White Mountain National Forest without exceeding the annual growth and without lessening the scenic and recreational values of the forest. Despite the loss in this storm of hundreds of millions of feet of timber, much of which is being salvaged, the future allowable cut will probably provide an increasing harvest, beginning at about 20,000,000 board feet annually.

Watershed Values

The watersheds of the White Mountain National Forest are of vital importance to New England. Many communities depend upon their clear mountain streams for drinking water, and a number of towns maintain reservoirs or storage basins within the forest areas. Moreover, maintenance of forest growth is a flood deterrent. It is an essential part of upstream engineering programs designed to bring under control, as far as possible, torrential waters that have in the past disturbed navigation, industry, and agriculture, and resulted in great losses of life and property. The headwaters of two of the most important rivers of New England, the Saco and the Merrimac, and the largest tributaries of the Androscoggin and Connecticut are in the forest.

Local Benefits

THE PROPERTY of the Federal Government is exempt from taxation. Guardianship of aesthetic values and their natural development along with economic improvements in national-forest areas, however, constitute tangible, though indirect, benefits to the localities in which these lands lie. In addition, it is provided by law that, in lieu of taxes, a fixed portion (now 25 percent) of the gross income from national-forest products shall be returned to the counties in which the forests are situated for road and school improvements. As the forests are restored to more profitable conditions, these payments will increase.

The law provides also that an additional 10 percent of this gross income shall be used for road and trail improvements within the particular national forest from which the income has been realized. While these roads are designed primarily for fire protection and other administrative purposes, they are usually of great value, also, to the local communities and to out-of-State visitors.

Recreational Use

The history of recreational use of the White Mountains is the story of the beginning of outdoor recreation in America.

Mount Washington was first ascended in 1642 by Darby Field, 22 years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. The first summer home, now a State Reservation and known as the Governor Wentworth Homestead, was constructed a few miles south of the present national forest, at Wolfeboro, by the Royal Governor of New Hampshire, several years before the Revolution. A summer hotel was operating in Crawford Notch in 1624.

Improvements in transportation and changes in our social and economic structure have made possible ever-increasing recreational use of this inviting vacation land. In 1852 the first railroad reached Gorham and opened the way for thousands of vacationists to visit the White Mountains by train. Today the automobile has brought the White Mountains within a few hours' ride of millions of people.

To meet the year-round demand for recreation, to which it lends itself, extensive improvements have been made in White Mountain National Forest. Roads and trails, needed for fire protection and other administrative purposes, have been built with a thought also of making more accessible the

Productive Forests Help Insure Permanent Communities

affording good drinking water, sanitary facilities, and simple picnicking conveniences, and camping-picnicking areas where conveniences for the enjoyment of both exist.

House trailers are permitted on most camping areas but no special facilities are provided.

A few of the more popular recreation localities are:

Campton Pond Recreation Area.—At entrance to Waterville Valley. A modern bathhouse is provided beside an exceptionally attractive bathing beach on the shore of 40-acre Campton Pond. Affords fine scenic views of the Sandwich Range and surrounding forest landscape.

Dolly Copp Recreation Area.—The most popular location in the forest. At Pinkham Notch, on N. H. Route 16. Near the base of Mount Washington, to which hikes may be taken. Also near Glen Ellis Falls. Includes individual camp sites as well as group campgrounds. A swimming pool, picnic shelter, and administration building are available.

Gale River, Picnicking-Camping.—On U S 3, between Echo Lake and Twin Mountain. Provides good fishing opportunities.

Gilead, Picnicking-Camping.—In Gilead Village, near Androscoggin River. On U S 2.

Oliverian, Picnicking-Camping.—On N. H. Route 25, near trails to Moosilauke and Benton Range.

Pasaconaway, Camping.—Beside Swift River on the Swift River Road, 2 miles west of Bear Notch Road. Nearby trails lead to summits of Sandwich Range.

Waterville, Picnicking-Camping.—On the banks of Mad

Fire Closures

DURING periods of dangerous fire weather, the forest supervisor may close temporarily the entire national forest against public entry. Such general closures are applied only so long as the dangerous weather prevails. Other forest lands throughout the State may be closed during similar periods through proclamation by the Governor. These special closures are given wide publicity so that local residents and visitors alike may realize the dangerous conditions in the woods.

River. Good fishing and tramping base.

White Ledge, Picnicking-Camping.—Six miles southwest of Conway, on N. H. Route 16. At east base of Mount Chocorua.

Wildwood, Picnicking-Camping.—On N. H. Route 112 from North Woodstock to Woodsville, between Moosilauke and Kinsman Ridge, and 2 miles from Lost River Reservation. Unusual scenic views.

Zealand, Camping.—On U S 302. Beside the Ammonoosuc River, at northern approach to Crawford Notch.

Other areas include the Dugway, Lower Falls, Rocky Gorge, Sawyer Rock, Cold River, and Wild River. Their locations are shown on the accompanying map.

Visitors are urged to enjoy the facilities of these areas and to help preserve their beauty and service by complying with simple rules of sanitation and good forest practices.

Trails for Hikers

Since there are two classes of hikers, the Forest Service has constructed two classes of trails—some for the hardy souls who wish to match their strength and stamina against the ruggedness of the mountains; others for trampers who prefer less exacting exercise. Nearly a thousand miles of hiking trails are maintained by the Forest Service, and several hundred additional miles are maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club and kindred organizations.

In addition to shelters provided by semipublic groups, the Forest Service has built and maintains open shelters for hikers at Wild River, Hermit Lake, Russell Pond, Mountain Pond, Greeley Pond, Bridal Veil Falls, Dry River, Rocky Branch, and numerous other points.

To the lover of nature, whether trained naturalist or seeker after simple forest lore and peaceful recreation, these trails open a fairyland hidden from the daily life of the dweller in the normal busy community. Mosses, flowers, bird life, the story of the rocks, zoology, botany, the magic of the forest canopy and undergrowth, the cascades of myriad waterfalls, the splashing brook, views of scenic splendor through leaf-bowered vistas are here in abundance. Near these trails one may camp, hunt, fish, or simply rest; enjoy the rare beauty of the forest, learn the lesson it so pleasingly teaches, and receive its inspiration.

Recreational facilities are provided by the Forest Service

for the accommodation of the public. Users are asked to realize that the national forest is their own property, to observe the few simple regulations established for its protection, and abide by the requirements of good woodsmanship.

Winter Sports

With the coming of the snows, the White Mountains have for many years become a great winter carnival ground. Unusual opportunities for skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganning, and other winter sports have made this area one of the best known winter playgrounds in the East. The spring skiing in Tuckerman Ravine and on other high slopes in the White Mountain National Forest—after the snows have melted in the lowlands—attracts international winter sports enthusiasts.

Throughout the season, driving over the well-cleared highways or traveling on the special "snow trains" from New York City and southern New England, thousands of recreationists come to enjoy the winter sports. As many as 2,700 skiers have been counted in one day in Tuckerman Ravine, while many other visitors were exploring the majestic solitudes of the "White Hills." Hotels, inns, and private homes, that formerly accommodated summer guests, now remain open throughout the winter; and supply centers, which formerly catered to summer recreationists, have now become winter sports marts as well, carrying extensive lines of food, clothing, and equipment.

Skiing is the most popular of the many winter sports. Serving this long-established demand, the White Mountain National Forest has designed, constructed, and maintained many miles of special ski runs. In addition, hundreds of miles of summer hiking trails are available in winter for cross-country skiing. Cabins have been constructed for skiers and other travelers, where open shelters are inadequate protection from the elements. These trails and cabins are available for public use, and it is asked only that they be left in good condition for the use of others.

The eight ski trail centers in the following list are at present served by Forest Service developments:

The Forest Supplies Wood for Local Use

Wildlife and Fish

Jurisdiction over the wildlife within the White Mountain National Forest remains with the State, and hunting, fishing, and trapping must be done in accordance with State laws. The Forest Service and the State are cooperating closely to the end that wildlife may be perpetuated and eventually restored to its former abundance.

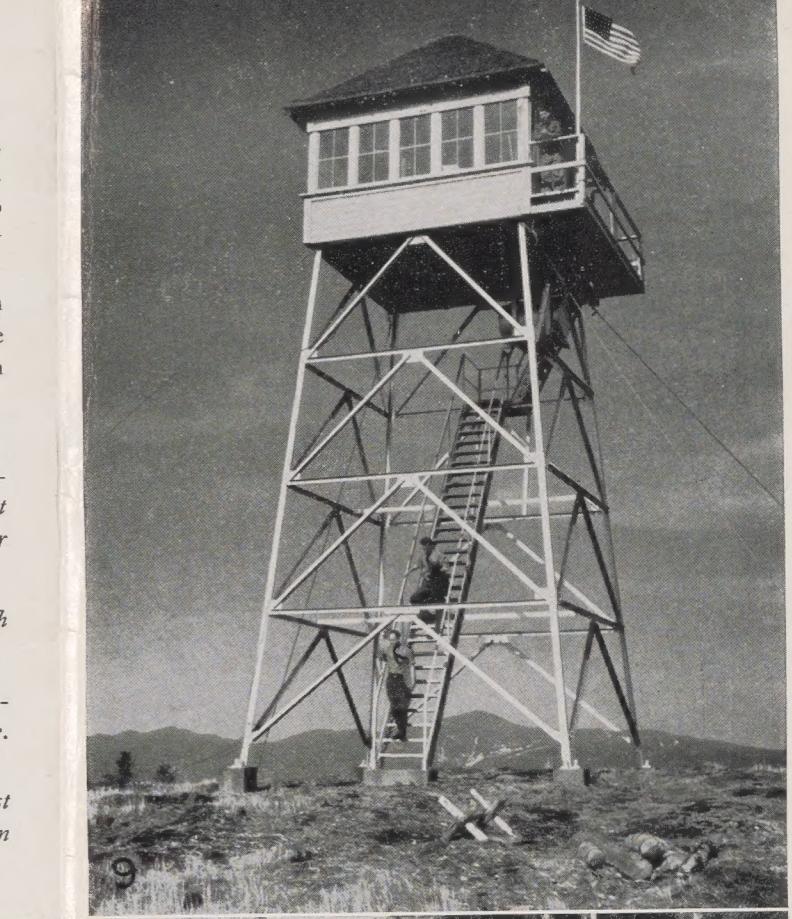
There are hundreds of miles of good trout waters within the forest, and streams are restocked annually from State and Federal hatcheries with native species, especially eastern brook trout.

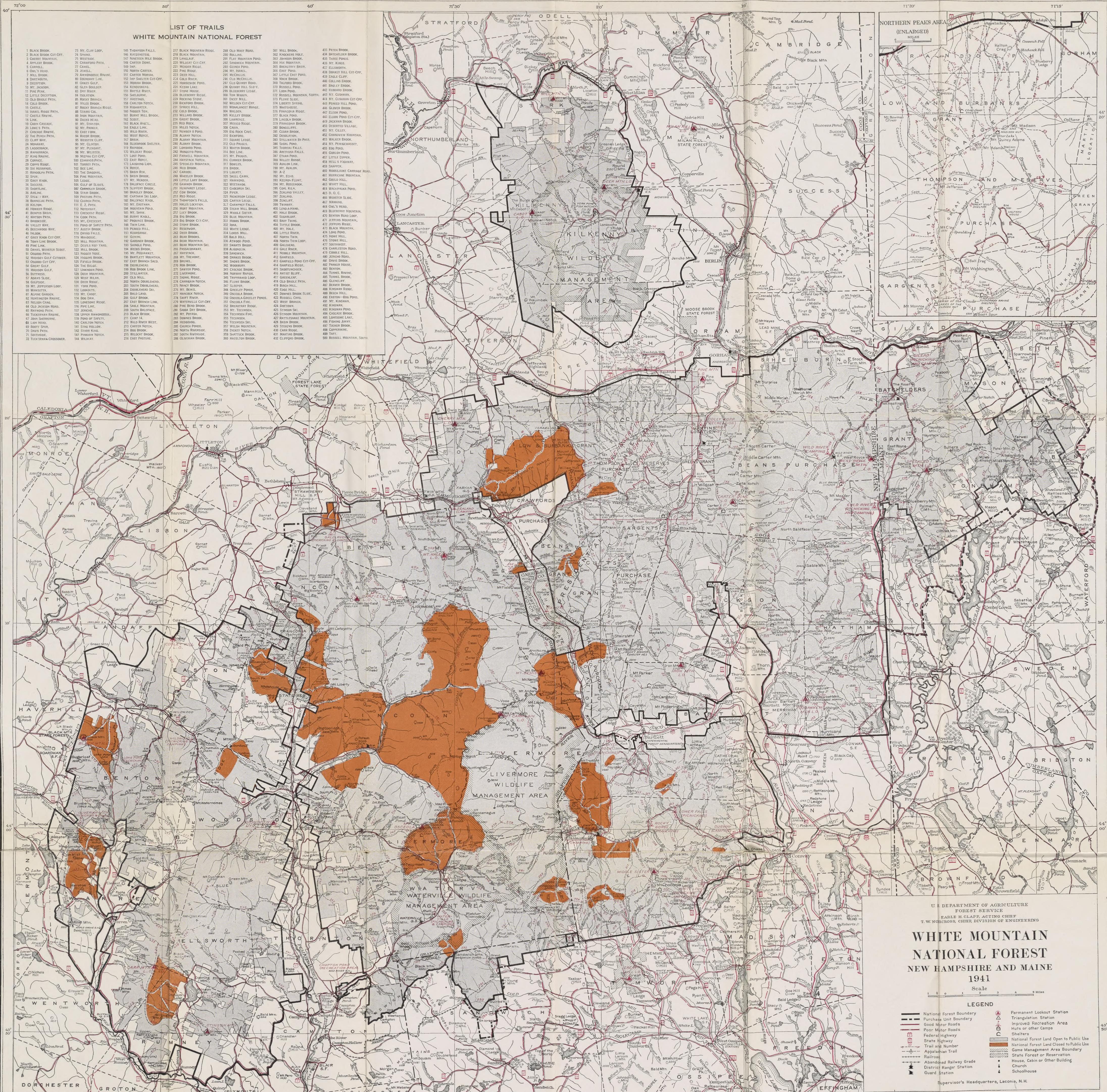
7. Cascading waters of the falls on Oliverian Brook near Glencliff. Watersheds of the White Mountain National Forest are of vital importance to New England as a source of water for domestic use and power. F-261318

8. Vista of Mt. Carr from the Warren-Woodstock Road through an opening in the forest. F-351403

9. The fire tower on Mt. Hale. Here the Forest Service maintains a lookout for the first faint wisps of smoke, sign of fire. F-379959

10. Clean-up work on the White Mountain National Forest following the hurricane blow-down was a tremendous task in many sections. F-379891





Three wildlife management areas in the White Mountain National Forest were established in 1937 for purposes of game management and restoration of normal wildlife populations. These are managed jointly by the United States Forest Service and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Restrictions of hunting seasons and bag limits, which may be modified from year to year, are enforced. Special permits, which are required only for these three areas, will be issued on request without charge to bona fide hunters possessing State hunting licenses, with the provision that all game killed be reported—to furnish data necessary in the game management program. No special Forest Service permit is required for fishing, but fish taken on these three areas must be reported at stations provided for that purpose. The three established areas, which are shown on the accompanying map, are:

Kilkenny.—Approximately 31,000 acres of wild land in the drainage of the upper Ammonoosuc, a tributary to the Connecticut River. Timber, forest soil, bird life, game, beauty, and recreational resources, here one day, are wiped out the next.

Livermore.—Approximately 33,000 acres lying at the headwaters of the Swift and Sawyer Rivers in the town of Livermore, covering a section of unbroken timbered country.

Waterville.—A total of about 22,000 acres, located entirely within the Waterville Valley, which is drained by the Mad River.

For information regarding open seasons and bag limits on these areas, or other parts of the national forest, write the Forest Supervisor, Laconia, N. H., or the State Fish and Game Department, Concord, N. H.

Fire Protection

Fire is the great enemy of the forest. A fire out of control in timber is an inferno, destroying wealth, killing wildlife, and often maiming and killing human beings in its devastating course.

Timber, forest soil, bird life, game, beauty, and recreational resources, here one day, are wiped out the next. The fire hazard on White Mountain National Forest, and elsewhere in New England, has been particularly high since the 1938 hurricane. To combat fire and prevent the possible destruction of the forest, organized fire prevention, detection, and suppression forces have been established and maintained in cooperation with the State Forester of New Hampshire and the Forest Commissioner of Maine. Towers are placed on high points are the principal eyes of the detection system, supplemented by reports from private individuals when fires occur. The towers are linked by telephone lines to fire-control stations where trained fire-fighting crews can respond to a fire call on a moment's notice. Water holes have been established and tools cached at strategic points. Advance weather reports, including a daily determination of the moisture content or inflammability of fuel on the forest floor, are provided all rangers so that plans may be made for extra patrols in specially hazardous weather.

Forests Yield Health—Wealth—Security

But, beyond all these preparations, a high degree of cooperation from the public is needed if fire is to be kept out of the forest. Despite the extensive blow-down experienced in 1938 on both public and private timberlands, and the present added tinder-like condition of trees only partially uprooted that did not die immediately, the United States Forest Service has endeavored to place as much of the area of the White Mountain National Forest in condition for public recreational use as is compatible with the general public interest. In this it has been reasonably successful, but there remain areas where it has been impractical to reduce the fire hazard to a point where uncontrolled public use could be safely permitted. In all sections care must be exercised, and in some parts of the forest public use will be definitely restricted for several years to come.

While most of the forest is open, the restricted areas will be closed and posted, except during periods of low risk, as when snow covers the ground. These areas are indicated in red on the accompanying map. Areas so designated are closed to all forms of public use. Man is responsible for most of the fires on national-forest lands. If each of the more than 3,000,000 persons using the White Mountain National Forest annually will remember that a carelessly tossed match, a smoldering cigarette or pipe heel, or a neglected campfire may destroy in a few hours what it has taken Nature hundreds of years to build, and govern himself accordingly, man-caused fires can be kept to a minimum. The Forest Service welcomes you in the belief that you will be careful yourself and see to it that others with you are careful also.

Enjoy the Forest—Leave a Clean Camp

high slopes and picturesque notches of this historic tramping area. Vistas have been created. Recreation areas have been improved. Shelters and cabins for public use on a first-come-first-served basis have been erected. The cabins are equipped with stoves and beds, but no bedding or other equipment is provided. Campers should equip themselves well because the nights frequently are cold in the mountains. Ski trails and other facilities for winter sports are available.

Since the 1938 hurricane, it has been necessary to restrict public use of some of the more isolated areas where slash and dead and down, or partly down, timber constitute a high fire hazard that cannot be removed for several years to come. Extensive salvage and clean-up work, however, has made possible the opening of most of the forest. The necessary restrictions are shown on the accompanying map.

Scenic Features

Mount Washington, rising to a height of 6,288 feet, dominates the area. From its summit, on a clear day, a panorama of ranges and valleys, supported in the distance by landmarks in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts, may be viewed for nearly a hundred miles in all directions. The Green Mountains of Vermont and the Adirondacks of New York form the western horizon. To the southeast may be seen the Atlantic coast line by day and its flashing beacons by night. Ascended by trail, by the famous Carriage Road, or by the unique Cog Railway over the Jacob's Ladder, Mount Washington has been the mecca of tourists for nearly a century.

Many scenic notches, as the great mountain passes are locally known, are to be found in the White Mountain National Forest. Among the more notable are Franconia Notch, Crawford Notch, Jefferson Notch, Pinkham Notch, Kinsman Notch, Bear Notch, and Carter Notch in New Hampshire, and Evans Notch in Maine. Franconia and Crawford Notches are large State Reservations. That part of Kinsman Notch including the famous Lost River Reservation is administered by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the remainder by the White Mountain National Forest.

In Franconia Notch the "Old Man of the Mountain" lifts his great stone countenance to the ages. There, also, is the Flume, operated by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, a 900-foot crevice in solid rock, with water rushing along its boulder-strewn gorge. Of interest, also, are the "Pool" and "Basin," filled with crystal-clear water and surrounded by unique rock formations.

Picturesque Glen Ellis Falls and Crystal Cascade are located in Pinkham Notch. Here, also, is Peabody River with its spacious Dolly Copp Recreation Area, overlooked by The Imp. Tuckerman Ravine, the Snow Bowl of late season skiers, is a most interesting section of Pinkham Notch, and a mecca for summer hikers.

Crawford Notch is named for one of the pioneer families. It is one of the sheerest passes in the forest.

Carter Notch, with its twin lakes surrounded by high cliffs, shelters one of the chain of eight huts where overnight accommodations are supplied to the tramping public by the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Bear Notch commands splendid views of both the Presidential and the Sandwich Ranges from a forest road which passes through it.

1. The shelter at the entrance to Tuckerman Ravine. In a single year 13,000 skiers and 5,000 hikers used this shelter.

F-390918

2. Bear Notch highway on the White Mountain National Forest; in construction work and timber cropping care is taken to disturb the natural forest conditions as little as possible.

F-281085

3. Camp neighbors at Dolly Copp on a summer afternoon.

F-261063

4. Time out for lunch at the Wild River shelter.

F-212244

5. Raw materials from the White Mountain National Forest afford much employment in local industries.

F-162593

6. Fisherman's luck! Proudly this 12-year-old boy shows his catch from Long Pond.

F-351411

The Cannon Mountain aerial tramway in Franconia Notch is the first and only modern aerial passenger tramway on the North American Continent. The tramway ride is slightly over a mile with a vertical ascent of 2,022 feet from the Daniel Webster Highway in Franconia Notch to the top of Cannon Mountain. The tramway is owned and operated by the State of New Hampshire.

Kinsman Notch, affording full views of Mount Moosilauke, embraces Lost River Reservation. This area, where the river has found an underground passage among interesting granite formations, was opened to the public in 1912 by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Bridges, ladders, and trails have been constructed to points of interest, and guides help visitors trace the underground course of the water.

Evans Notch, opened to public travel by the United States Forest Service in 1936, is one of the most scenic areas in the White Mountains. Commanding splendid views of the Wild River Valley, the Baldface Range, the Cold River Valley, and Speckled Mountain, the Evans Notch Road affords continuing panoramas through its 14-mile course from Gilead to Chatham.

Jefferson Notch is the highest in the mountains traversed by a road and from it may be viewed the interesting Castellated Ridge.

The Woodstock-Warren Road, which circles the southeastern base of Mount Moosilauke, and the Tripoli Road through Thornton Gap between Mount Osceola and Mount Tecumseh are two of the many inviting scenic drives through the national forest.

The East Branch-Swift River Road from Lincoln to Conway and Bartlett, now under construction by the United States Forest Service, will ultimately permit quick cross-mountain travel at the southern end of the national forest.

The Lakes of the Clouds, 5,000 feet above the sea in the barren "col" between Mount Washington and Mount Monroe, are visited by hundreds of climbers each year. Echo and Profile Lakes in Franconia Notch, Echo Lake and White Horse Ledge, near North Conway, and Chocorua Lake are among beauty spots eagerly sought by tourists. Greeley Ponds, Long Pond, Mountain Pond, Russell Pond, and many other delightful bodies of water afford seclusion and picturesque landscapes for the forest visitor.

Forest Administration

THE ADMINISTRATION of a great public property like the White Mountain National Forest, with its diversified program of activities, entails the training and maintenance of a highly organized force, operating under a definite plan of action and responsibility.

The use of all national-forest resources is carefully planned, and they are developed with a view to making them yield the greatest net benefit to the greatest possible number of people. This requires careful classification of the forest lands and their resources and a long-view determination of the purposes to which each class is best suited.

Unique scenic values of conspicuous slopes and high mountain peaks must be preserved against defacement or denudation. Selected areas of virgin timber must be maintained in their natural state as examples of undisturbed wild conditions. Fine stands of timber are retained along highways and other recreational roads traversing or adjacent to the forest. Recreational areas are developed in such a manner as to preserve as nearly as possible the natural environment. Trails through the woodlands are cleared, improved, and maintained for the use of the vacationist, the nature lover, and the sportsman at all seasons. At the same time, sections containing unusually good browse, food, or cover for game are given special administration as wildlife management areas. Fish are reared and planted in streams and ponds where natural conditions favorable to their propagation exist or can be restored.

Camps and Camping

A number of places suitable for recreation have been developed on White Mountain National Forest. These consist of recreation areas where camping, bathing, and picnicking facilities are available; camping areas where sites and facilities for tent camping are provided; picnicking areas

Prevent Forest Fires—It Pays

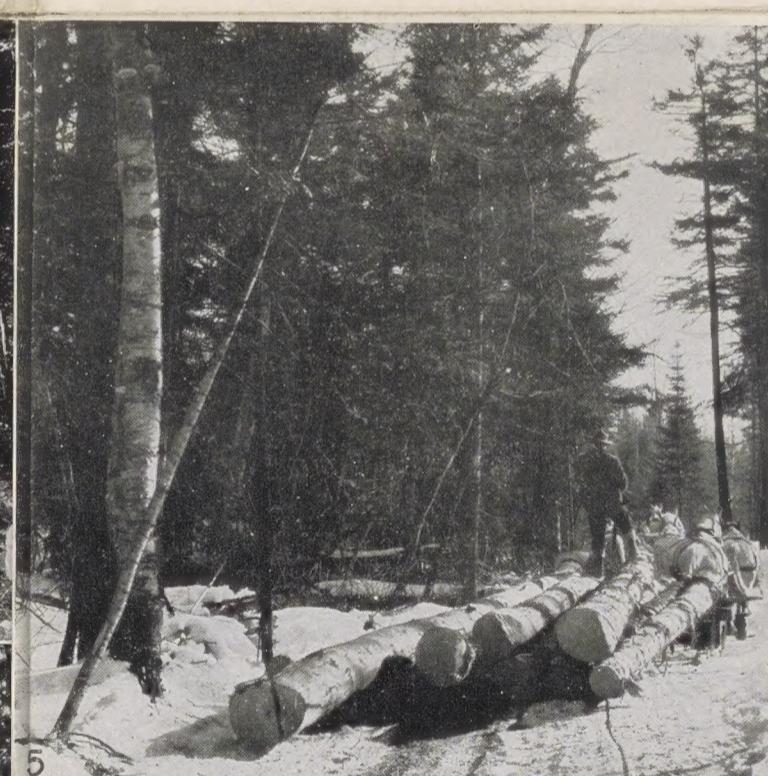
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Information Sources

THE SUPERVISOR and the rangers are public servants. Call upon them for such help or advice as you may need. If you plan to build fires on unimproved areas, drop into their offices and ask for a free campfire permit.

The forest headquarters is located at Laconia, N. H.

District ranger offices are located at Gorham, Conway, Plymouth, and Littleton, N. H.

Other sources of information are:

The State Forester, New Hampshire Forestry and Recreation Department, Concord, N. H.

State Planning and Development Commission, Concord, N. H.

New Hampshire State Highway Department, Concord, N. H.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Concord, N. H.

Forest Commissioner, State of Maine Forest Service, Augusta, Maine.

Maine Development Commission, Augusta, Maine.

State Highway Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game, Augusta, Maine.

Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, Mass.

New England Council, Statler Building, Boston, Mass.



COMMERCIALIZED USES obtrude as little as possible upon the areas dedicated primarily to recreation in the national forest.

Entrance, travel, and enjoyment of the beauties of the forest are free to all, with the single stipulation that good woods practice must be observed to protect the forest against fire and insanitary nuisance. Be thoughtful in the forest—treat it as though it were all your own, which it is. It will repay you in health, inspiration, and pleasure. At the same time, remember it is supplying definite economic and social services which depend upon a living forest.

Safety in Camping

1. Before building a fire when not on a developed camping area, select a site near water, then scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter, being sure to reach mineral soil. Dig a hole in the center, and in it build your fire. Keep it small. Never build a fire against a tree or log, near brush, in rotten wood, or in duff—sparks may smolder after you have left.
2. Dead and down trees may be used for fuel.
3. Never break camp until your fire is out—**DEAD OUT.**
4. Stir coals while soaking them with water to put out a campfire. Turn small sticks and drench all sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If water cannot be had, stir in mineral soil and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.
5. Do not throw away lighted matches, cigar or cigarette ends, or pipe heels. Drop them in damp mineral soil—**STEP ON THEM!**
6. Leave a clean camp. Bury refuse or burn it in the campfire.
7. If you discover a fire, put it out if you can, but in any event, notify the nearest forest officer. Use the phone and reverse the charges. District rangers may be reached at Gorham, Conway, Littleton, and Plymouth; the forest supervisor at Laconia, N. H.

Campfire Permits Required

Before building a fire on White Mountain National Forest, at other than improved roadside campgrounds, obtain a free campfire permit from the nearest district ranger. In applying for the permit state the spots where you desire to build a fire and the approximate dates as permits are issued only for specific points and for stated periods. District rangers are located at Plymouth, Littleton, Gorham, and Conway, N. H. Apply for a permit well in advance to the district ranger located nearest to the points you plan to visit.